

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

A. D. GNAGEY, : : Editor.

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THE THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Another word concerning the Theological Department in Ashland University. This department is free to those who wish to prepare themselves more thoroughly for the important work and responsible duties of the Christian ministry. It is our conviction that there is no more important duty before the Brethren church to-day than the support of this department in the university. The imperative need of the church is a well equipped ministry—a ministry prepared to go out into the world and successfully meet the almost numberless theories advanced for the healing of the social ills of the day, a ministry that will hold up the Lord Jesus in all the perfections of his character, the beauty of holiness, and the sublime self-sacrifice, by which atonement was made for a lost race, a ministry that will hold up the cross before a dying world, and present the elements of truth, justice, love, mercy and righteousness as seen in the cross, so as to attract the most sinful, ignorant and degrading, and yet commend themselves to the most learned and refined—such a ministry is the need of the day. The hope of our church, brethren, lies in a well qualified, consecrated, Christian ministry. Shall we have it?

Since instruction in this department is given free to those who wish to prepare for the ministry, it follows that the department must be supported by donations. We are pleased to learn that the sisters are concentrating their efforts upon this one thing, but the church cannot expect the sisters alone to sustain the work. We take the liberty to suggest a few plans, by which a sufficient amount could be raised yearly, with little or no burden upon any one.

1. If each congregation in the brotherhood would set aside a few dollars yearly for this purpose, say \$1, \$2 or \$3, the department could be sustained with very little trouble.

2. Are there not 400 persons in the brotherhood who will give yearly \$1.00 each for this purpose? This with what the sisters are able to do, would support the department, and accomplish a great work that would tell for time and eternity.

GRACEFULLY ADOPTED.

Brother P. J. Brown accepts our criticism of his views in the last issue of the paper, in a friendly and brotherly way. He thinks, however, that the position taken by Brother Balsbaugh, needs be criticised as well as his, if not more so. We are frank to admit that the statement made by Brother Balsbaugh, a few weeks ago, is entirely too sweeping. It was this: "As grounds of reconciliation with God, baptism, and footwashing, and eucharist are of no more value than a round coat or broad brim."

It is true that Footwashing, the Lord's Supper and the Eucharist, are ordinances intended for those who are reconciled to God, and the mere observance of them will not bring about a reconciliation. God himself has laid down the conditions of reconciliation, which man must meet, or remain in a state of rebellion against and alienation from God. No where in the Word of God did he make these ordinances, conditions or grounds of reconciliation, and yet they are *anticipated* in the terms on which God promises reconciliation. One of these terms is obedience, and includes not those things only which a man must do to be saved, but a promise also, of obedience to those things which are required of him when he is saved. The reconciled sinner, therefore, in coming to God, must do two things: First, he must meet the conditions on which God promises pardon, and second, he must manifest a willingness to walk in God's ways, obey his holy precepts, and appropriate those means of grace which have been ordained for the growth and full development of the soul, reconciled to God. These cannot be separated. The sinner must *do* the one, and sincerely *promise* to observe the other. These are the two essential elements in the great commission. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Then what? "Teaching them to observe *all* things whatsoever I have commanded you." The observance of the "all things" which God has commanded, is anticipated in the sinner's reconciliation.

As to baptism, the statement by Brother Balsbaugh is wide of the mark. Is not baptism one of the very steps in the process of reconciliation? If one may be reconciled without obedience to this command, then we fail to see any use in baptism at all. What is its design? Surely it has *some* purpose in the plan of salvation. What is it? The church of

which our brother is a member baptizes penitent believers for the *remission of sins*. Is a man reconciled without remission of sins? According to the doctrine of our brother, he is. More than this. The church which Brother Balsbaugh represents, makes baptism so important, that it accepts none other as valid, except that prescribed by them, *and even rejects that unless administered by them*. Perhaps, however, Brother Balsbaugh has grown larger than his creed; if so, we congratulate him, and beg pardon for this personal reference. To say the very least about it, we consider it wrong to compare God's holy and sacred ordinances, such as Baptism, Footwashing, the Lord's Supper and the Eucharist, with man made decrees which require the wearing of a round cut coat or a broad brim hat.

THE OHIO STATE CONFERENCE.

The State Conference of Ohio, meets at Ashland, June 4, 5, 6. The object of these meetings is to discuss methods of church and Sunday-school work, and to devise such ways and means as will prove most helpful in the prosecution of the Lord's work. The district conference, is therefore a very important gathering. Every church in the state should elect delegates to this Conference. Where this is impossible, there should be representation by letter. By virtue of their office, all ministers of the Brethren church in the State, are delegates to and members of this Conference. Experience has proven that it is not best to leave this work in the hands of ministers alone. The lay representation should be as large as the ministerial. We have among our people, very intelligent laymen whose counsel is needed at the conference, and churches should see that the lay delegation is equal in numbers to the ministers. Every member of the church should feel an interest in the work of the conference, and do all he can to make it a success. It is here where work is outlined for the coming year, and much of our success depends upon what is done at these meetings. Let there be a good, full representation of ministers and laymen.

The committee on entertainment appointed by the Ashland City church, has made the following arrangements:

1. Lodging will be furnished free to all who may attend the conference.
2. Board will be furnished at the Hall at the rate of 20 cents a meal.